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Kennedy and Castro

Reports of Possible Cuban Links to 1963 Assassination Seen as Basis for Study

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WASHINGTON, June 24 — On the strength of a report by the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Activities, some Senators have called for another investigation of the assassination of President Kennedy. If the call is answered, and it might be one day, the new investigation would be the sixth conducted on a major scale by government officials since John F. Kennedy was murdered in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963.

News Analysis

What more is to be done in the way of investigation in the 13th year after the murder of the 35th President of the United States?

Trails unexplored at the time grew cold and now are covered with the underbrush of passing years.

J. Edgar Hoover, the director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation at the time of the assassination, is dead. So is Allen W. Dulles, Director of Central Intelligence until the spring of 1961, a man knowledgeable about the Kennedy Administration plots against Cuba's Prime Minister, Fidel Castro.

However, according to Senator Richard S. Schweiker, the Pennsylvania Republican who remains among the most enthusiastic of the assassination students and potential conspiracy theorists, the previous Federal investigations of the murder amounted to "a cover-up."

While Mr. Schweiker has retreated from his assertion of last October that the Warren Commission report would collapse "like a house of cards," he still maintains that there are "promising leads." He takes this view despite the conclusion of yesterday's report, which he helped write, that no new evidence sufficed "to justify a conclusion that there was a conspiracy."

The focus of a new investigation, however, would be rather limited in scope and different in emphasis from the earlier studies, according to staff members of the Senate select committee.

Mr. Schweiker and, with less enthusiasm, some of his Senate colleagues, want to tie up what they believe to be loose ends remaining in three fields.

Areas for Study

First, as the committee put it, "the possibility exists that senior officials [of the F.B.I. and the C.I.A.] made conscious decisions not to disclose potentially important information" relating to the assassination.

The staff specialists say a new inquiry could try to determine "on whose authority" and for what reasons the post-mortem investigations by both agencies were crippled or halted.

Second, questions remain unresolved about the role of a man referred to as Am/Lash, a Cuban official close to Mr. Castro, who was chosen by the C.I.A. to kill the Prime Minister and lead a coup overthrowing the Castro government.

The select committee established that Am/Lash, in reality Rolando Cubelo, was receiving C.I.A. instructions on eliminating Mr. Castro at the very time Lee Harvey Oswald was preparing to shoot at President Kennedy.

Was it possible, the committee staff members ask, that Am/Lash could have been a double agent whose direct knowledge of the C.I.A.'s intentions toward Mr. Castro led to the Kennedy murder?

They point out in addition that the Am/Lash operation was not secure, that there is a still unsifted F.B.I. report relating to it and that an undentified F.B.I. informant on the Am/Lash question remains to be studied.

The thrust of this line of inquiry is toward all the aspects of pro-Castro and anti-Castro forces in ferment at the time of the Kennedy murder, which went virtually untouched in previous investigations.

"All the leads point to Cuba," said one official close to the Senate inquiry, "but at the time the focus was on the Soviet connections to Oswald."

The third area for further investigation, Mr. Schweiker contends, concerns leads purporting to involve several "mysterious strangers" of Cuban origin, whom the intelligence agencies picked up in the aftermath of the murder and then dropped.

One lead involved reports assembled by the C.I.A. about a Cuban-American who crossed from Texas into Mexico on Nov. 23, 1963, and then boarded a Cuban airliner bound for Havana several days later as the only passenger.

Another involved an unidentified person who arrived in Mexico City the night of the Kennedy murder and boarded a Cuban airliner that had been delayed five hours to take the man to Havana. The passenger was not subjected to customs controls.

A Senate official who is close to the committee investigation said today, "They feel there is a conspiracy. But they are not ready to point a finger yet at pro-Castro or anti-Castro forces. They also feel there are indications Am/Lash was a double agent."

Along with the recommendation that the new Senate intelligence oversight committee follow up these aspects of the assassination, the select committee has handed over 5,000 pages of documents relating to its own investigation.

Senator Schweiker is scheduled to appear Sunday on the "Face The Nation" television program to plead his cause for pursuit of the leads.

But aides of Senator Daniel K. Inouye, who is chairman of the new intelligence committee, said that the Hawaii Democrat wanted an opportunity to study the latest investigative eport before authorizing a new inquiry.

"It is not his first priority," an Inouye aide said.

An aide of Howard H. Baker Jr., a member of the old and new committees, said, "Loose ends should be wrapped up," but added, "He is not overly enthusiastic. I doubt if it has top priority."

Nor is it certain what the United States would have done or would still do if it were suddenly established that the Castro Government indeed plotted and directed the killing of President Kennedy.

At the time, with the 1961 debacle of the C.I.A.-directed Bay of Pigs landing fresh in mind and the 1962 Cuba missile crisis only a year behind them, Kennedy Administration officials were predisposed to avoid still another "Cuban flap," as the select committee report makes clear.

There is no indication whatsoever that the currrent leaders of the United States desire a "Cuban flap" now, either.